A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 14. 1710.

WHen I look back on the Times, when I reflect upon the Hiſtory of *England*, not to mention Neighbour-Nations, I cannot but think it a Dream, that this Age ſhould be doz'd with the Witchcraft of a Party, to deny the Lawfulneſs of Reſiſtance in Caſes of Tyranny and Oppreſſion—— And indeed I think, I ought to aſk Pardon of the *Houſe* of *Commons*, for offering to move them for any more Declarations againſt the ridiculous Syſtems of Non Reſiſtance and abſolute Submiſſion. It ſeems, as if I ſhould want a Vote of the *Houſe* of *Commons*, that cutting of Throats ſhould be counted Murther, that taking a Purſe on the High-way ſhould be call'd Robbery, or forcing of Women be call'd Raviſhment.

To tell Engliſh-men of Non-Reſiſtance, when our Fundamental Conſtitution ſtands upon that ſame *Magna Charta*, which coſt the Bleed of a hundred Thouſand brave *Engliſh* Men in *Nine* Barons *Wars* againſt their encroaching Sovereigns.

To tell us of Paſſive-Obedience, that have depos'd two Sacred Kings, *whoſe Right was unqueſtion'd*, (*viz.*) *Edward* II. and *Richard* II. for Male-Adminiſtration—— and have allow'd the Reign of thoſe that ſucceeded, to be as Sacred as any that went before them.

To tell us of Non-Reſiſtance, that invited the Prince of *Orange* with an Army at his Heels, to call our Monarch to Account for Male-Adminiſtration, or at leaſt to oblige him

him to govern by Laws and Conditions—such as were suitable to his Coronation-Oath, and our bounded Obedience.

To tell us of absolute uncondition'd Obedience, who presented a Claim of Right to King *William* and Queen *Mary* at the Revolution, which in both Kingdoms consisted of near 70 Articles, as the *Pacta Conventa*, on the Terms of which and no other we consented to be govern'd, and would not tender the Crown but on those Conditions, and not on those Conditions either, unless sworn to by the King and Queen.

To tell us of Non-Resistance, who when King *James* II. and VII. abdicating his Dominions first, and then repossessing *Ireland*, rais'd Armies, fought him at the *Boyn*, rescued *London-Derry*, and afterwards the whole Kingdom from him, and not suffering him to keep a Foot of Land in his three Kingdoms, drove him back to *France* to eat the Bread of Charity in a Foreign Court.

To tell us of Passive-Obedience and Non-Resistance, when our Bishops went to the *Tower*, our Fellows of Colleges to Banishment from their Colleges, for disobeying the Sacred Voice of their not-to-be-resisted Monarch; when Prince *George*, and her present Majesty, and the Bishop of *L——n*, abandoning the dearest Obligations, joyn'd the *Northern* Gentry in Arms against a King, as much *Jure Divino* a King, as ever any was that reign'd in this Island.

What shall we say to these Things? Have all the Nations been fighting against GOD? Have our Parliaments made us abjure the Divine, and adhere to the Human Settlement of the Succession? Have we been in Rebellion against Heaven ever since the Revolution? Is her present Majesty a Mutherer of her Father, an Usurper of her Brothers Right? And are all the People of *Britain* Traytors to GOD and their Sovereign?

Yes, says the *Jacobite*, we esteem it so, and answer all in the Affirmative——Well, say I, ye profess no other, and we know you, you are honest Fellows enough in your own Way, you deceive no Body——But shall a Sett of vile Wretches, that swear to all the fore-mention'd Heads, that abjure with us the depos'd Race of King *James*, that call themselves Members of this Government; Shall these preach up a Principle, that destroys the Foundation they stand on, that blasts the Powers they have acknowledg'd? Was ever any thing fit to be call'd the *DEVIL's DREAM*, like this?—— What Language can express this in Terms to be understood?—— Has Dr. *Sacheverell* sworn to Queen *ANNE*, *as Rightful Queen?* Has he taken the Abjuration, and renounced *James* VIII. as they call him? Has he sworn to the Revolution-Government, and does he preach, that the Pillar, on which the Constitution is founded, stands upon the steady Belief of the Subjects Obligation, to an absolute uncondtion'd Obedience, *&c.* and the utter Illegality of Resistance upon any Pretence whatsoever? See *Sacheverell's* Sermon, *pag.* 8. Has he done this? Why does he not renounce his Baptism, burn his Bible, and circumcising himself, take the Alchoran, and preach *Mahomet* in the Room of *Christ Jesus*, and yet keeping his Gown and Cassock, call himself a Fellow of *Magdalen* College in *Oxford*?—— And without straining Terms, I undertake to prove against him, That one is as congruous and consistent as the other, and for ought I know, equally sinful.

MIS-

MISCELLANEA.

I Have made a Beginning to offer you ſome Paradoxes and Queries to be unriddled, and anſwer'd by thoſe that are Learned in Matters of Contradiction—— But have been frequently interrupted by Things of higher Nature, but equally Ænigmatick.

But ſhall I give you a few ſhort Touches of the Difficulties of this Age, which really I cannot reconcile?

And *Firſt*, I recommend it to the Reverend *High-Church* Clergy to reconcile, *and that if poſſible to the Honour of their ſuffering Brother*, a ſmall Difficulty, which occurs to me in a few Words alternately utter'd on both ſides; *Viz.* In the *Doctor*'s Dedication of his Sermon to My *Lord-Mayor*, where he begins— *My Lord, by your Lordſhip's Command, this Diſcourſe ventures to appear, &c.* — *And*, My *Lord-Mayor* affirming in the *Houſe* to his Face, *that he gave no Order for the publiſhing that Diſcourſe*—— This is a Paradox, I will not undertake to reconcile.

2. I would recommend it to all our *High Flyers* to reconcile a modern Practice of taking the Oaths to Queen *ANNE*, and without wiping their Mouths, drinking a Health to the Pretender—together with ſome little ſubſequent *Addenda* common to the Party, and of no other Conſequence than to expoſe them.

Abjuring the Pretender, and damning the Proteſtant Succeſſion; (*Query*) *Whether ſuch People are not Commonwealth's Men?* paying, and perhaps giving Taxes to the carrying on the War—but refuſing to keep Thankſgiving-Days for the Succeſs; praying for Queen *ANNE* in the Church, and for her profeſs'd Enemy in the Tavern; *and the like.*

3. Will you have a City Paradox or two, *then tell us*, what ſhall we call that *Furgown Juſtice*—To reject a Man from a Fraternity, for having his near Friend hang'd, when they know it was not his Fault, that he was not hang'd with him?

4. *A new faſhion'd Alternative* demonſtrated by *A. B. C.* Choriſters of a certain Cathedral, ſinging Anthems in the Church in the Morning, and bawdy Songs in the Tavern near ..... in the Evening, *Auguſt* ... 1709.

5. A true Son of the Church of *England*, ... publickly demonſtrated by Mr. *C. B.* declaring he would have all the Biſhops of *England* hang'd, except Three, becauſe they were put in by King *William*, and Queen *ANNE*.

6. *Bribery turn'd into Charity*; as of old; Robbery was paſs'd for Burnt-Offering, exemplify'd in giving Coals in cold Weather to the poor People of *Queen-hythe* Ward, only to warm their Votes for electing the Giver—An Alderman—not at all to biaſs or preingage them, except as before excepted,

7. *Popery* entirely aboliſh'd by the Croſs on the Top of St. *Paul*'s, which, they ſay, is ſet up ſo High, that no Body can come near enough to make an Idol of it.

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